

## THE NEW ERA.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1870.

## SALUTATORY OF THE CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

The mission of the New Era (appropriately named, since it signifies a new world and a new existence for millions of our countrymen), has already been ably, eloquently, and perhaps sufficiently explained. The fact that our paper dares to take its place among the many lights existing to guide, and the many shields uplifted to defend the colored race in their transition from bondage to freedom, requires neither defense nor apology. To us it seems self-evident that now is the time, that the national capital is the place, and that, in the absence of more competent hands, we are the men to raise this new standard, and to unfurl this new banner.

The time has come for the colored men of the country to assume the duties and responsibilities of their own existence. Our friends can do much for us—have done much for us—but there are some things which colored men can and must do for themselves. Benevolence and sympathy are naturally awakened by impotency and degradation; but respect and confidence are called into life by the vigorous assertion of manly power, self-reliance, and independence. Grateful always for the sympathy and benevolence shown us by our white fellow-citizens, we deem it not arrogant to assert, that with fair play, and a reasonable period of probation, the entire capability of our race to win the confidence, respect, and friendship of all patriotic men will be amply demonstrated.

Among all the instrumentalities available to this end, none, it seems to us, is more manifestly potent and appropriate than a well-conducted public journal, mainly in the hands of men completely identified with the interests of the newly emancipated class. Such a journal, published from week to week in the capital of the nation, inspiring its readers with manly sentiments, ennobling aspirations, reflecting the highest intellectual and moral resources of the colored people, will serve as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Not doubting that the New Era, now in its third number, will prove itself to be just such a journal as now described, and that it will live and grow in usefulness, vitality and power, we gladly unite our interests and join hands with its able editor and proprietors, and will endeavor to add our mite to its success. In connecting ourselves with this new enterprise, and in undertaking a part of the labor which this connection will inevitably impose, we are quite sensible of the importance of the work and of our own many deficiencies. We are, however, consoled and encouraged by the thought that our part is but a subordinate one, and that younger and broader shoulders are to bear the main burden in making the New Era equal to its high mission, and to the expectations which its publication has justly created. Of one thing we may, without egotism, assure its readers, and that is, whatever may be our mental disqualifications in point of ability and education, we bring to the work zeal and devotion thoroughly tested by the trials and hardships of a thirty years' conflict with prejudice, oppression and slavery, and that whatever we can do consistently with our many other duties and occupations to make the New Era a credit to our cause, our color and our country, shall be earnestly and faithfully done.

In saying thus much for ourselves, (we hope not too much,) we beg to remind our readers and friends that there are reciprocal duties between us and them. The New Era will undoubtedly deserve their earnest support, but the experience of the past in such enterprises has lamentably shown, that it is one thing to merit good will, approval, and co-operation, and quite another to receive them. We ask, therefore, at the outset, not only a charitable interpretation of all the utterances of this journal, but that the paper itself shall be proudly and joyfully sustained by every intelligent and patriotic colored man in the land. Published at the national capital, supplied with abundant resources for forming an intelligent judgment concerning public men and public measures; conducted in the interest of no section, but broadly overlooking the social and political condition of our whole people, whether North, South, East, or West, it will combine in its character all the elements of a grand national organ, through which our minutest wrongs may be exposed, our equal rights asserted, our character encouraged, our efforts for improvement encouraged, and our whole relation to the body politic, to which we have already been virtually admitted against long continued and determined opposition, triumphantly vindicated.

## EMIGRATION.

When the apostle Paul stood upon Mar's Hill, in Athens, and declared to the wondering populace that God had "made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of all the earth," he uttered the countersign of the last and crowning civilization of the world. The Redeemer of men had not perished in vain. Not without a purpose had an all-directing Providence ordained, that the nations should pass under the yoke of the Roman Caesars; for beneath that imperial tyranny the great lesson of the unity of the races was to be inculcated. That stupendous power has long since completed its work and passed away; but its heirs, the nations of medieval Europe, emerged from the obscurity which attended and followed its decline, crowned with laurels of rich and varied progress. The fifteenth century was especially rich in the bestowal of these endow-

ments. Then occurred that spring-time of literature and of science, which, by the abundance and luxuriance of its blossoms, earnestly cried out for an improvement in the mode of garnering and preserving its fruits, and which had its cry answered by the revelation of the arts of paper-making and of printing. All this moral and intellectual activity yearned for a wider and less hampered sphere than it had in the king-governed countries of Europe; and soon, for its gratification, the discovery of America opened up a whole new world as a field for its further development. Thus, emigration was necessitated as an agency in the onward march of civilization. It was not, by any means, an end and unheard-of agency for such a new instance, the history of the world is full of instances in which success vindicated its employment, from the days when Adam and Eve set their faces eastward from Eden.

These instances are amply sustained by the results of the activity first set in motion by Columbus, and followed up by the voyages of the Cabots, Cartier, Drake, Raleigh, and others.

Not to speak of the various foreign nationalities which have been established within the limits of this Western Continent, our own citizens have, surely, reason to congratulate themselves, that a love of freedom, conjoined with an adventurous spirit, prompted the early settlers of this country to exchange the comforts of their European homes for harsh experiences and unenvied privations in the wilds of America. Their reward is seen on every hand, in the existence of a Republic blessed with free institutions, and with sons and daughters who have shown their determination to maintain those institutions at all hazards. This patriotic population, too, cannot claim one common origin. Constant immigrations have given it a highly composite character. Year by year, upon the primal Anglo-Saxon stock, additions have been engrafted from Celtic, Teutonic, Scandinavian, and other sources. Even the descendants of Africa, the offspring of an enforced emigration, have been welcomed into the brotherhood of the Union, and constitute, certainly, not the least loyal, and, perhaps, the most plastic element in our American civilization. But, whatever their origin, all of our citizens are proud of a country, which has become what it is through their united labors. As they behold it, stretching from ocean to ocean, spanned by railways and telegraphic wires, its surface rich with the evidences of fertility, or carefully guarding beneath its depths immeasurable stores of mineral wealth of every sort, they feel that theirs is a land whose resources will never be exhausted as long as a desire to emigrate impels foreigners to seek its shores. And if they, under the providence of God, have been permitted to extend their possessions until they are washed by the Pacific waves, is there not in that dispensation a teaching, that they have been thus favored, in order that they might the more readily welcome the denizens of Eastern Asia and of Africa to the blessings of Christianity and republicanism?

## SENATOR SUMNER.

Senator Sumner's attitude in regard to Cuba and the admission of Virginia has shown that his moral stature is not to be measured by that sort of criticism that defers to standards of mere consistency. We have recently seen how men, whose feeble theories have been bungled down from Mr. Sumner's philosophy, and whose political standing has been secured by his triumphs, will, under the suggestions of a very curious kind of egotism, dare to become the rivals of their political career.

Senator Trumbull, for instance, in a characteristic speech during the Virginia debate in the Senate, sought to fasten on Senator Sumner accusations of unfaithfulness to his party and its principles in a way well calculated to raise a laugh at the expense of the accuser. It will be sad news to the country to learn that Senator Trumbull is the custodian of republican orthodoxy. But it would have been a sadder revelation to the world had Mr. Sumner proved himself unfaithful to his trust in allowing Virginia to return to the Union unshorn of those branding antagonisms which seek to-day to neutralize the victory we have won and to reverse the history we have created in the surrender of Lee and the election of General Grant.

But the saddest thing showed itself in a disposition to quarrel with Mr. Sumner for the mere sake of quarreling.

Every member of the Senate knows that even though Mr. Sumner were lacking in sagacity, he possesses a political conscience which by instinct and long training discards the anxieties of the hour in his eagerness for the what in the administration of justice.

They know he brands everywhere and always the claims of mere policy with the marks of a sturdy repudiation. Manhood, not state-craft, is his watchword, and it has been from the first. If it could be proved that Mr. Sumner was wrong in taking the position he did in regard to Cuba, it would still be admitted on all hands that it was his excessive caution against those who began their revolution as slaveholders, and his zeal for freedom, which determined his attitude. Whether he was right or not, time will reveal. But Mr. Sumner, while awaiting the solution, may congratulate himself upon the fact, that as to all his past positions on vital questions time has been his greatest vindicator. Everybody knows, too, that principles like these controlled the action of Mr. Sumner in the Virginia case.

By an overwhelming majority the House concurred, on Monday, in the Senate amendments to the Virginia bill, though Mr. Sumner, while supporting the amendments, refused, we think consistently, to vote for it. Virginia comes back to her place in the nation—if in good temper all right, but if she is not, it is now so muzzled with conditional restrictions that she cannot, like Georgia, bury her envenomed fangs in the breast of that race which has nursed her into political life.

Again, the nation is laid under obligation to those whose incorruptible loyalty to freedom is constantly pecked with derogatory epithets as to his "imperiousness of temper," and "arrogance of manner" as an excuse for lack of foresight and moral force among the people. Once more the colored people are made to see that great powers of mind and enunciation in scholarship, distinguished position and commanding influence, can be consecrated to the claims of the humblest of the citizens of this republic; and that there is a righteousness which, in exalting the nation, lifts the oppressed into the light of political life where

their great vindicator can reflect upon them the glory of his talents and fidelity, and secure them in their rights by the wisdom of his statesmanship.

All honor to our great champion and the members of Congress who have had the heart and sagacity to stand by him in changing the mother of statesmen a bride of Reconstruction.

## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT.

Through all the years which preceded the recent rebellion against the national authority, the people of this District, which ought to be a model of good government, labored under the influence of the slave code, with all its attendant evils of ignorance, tyranny, and lack of enterprise. Neither education, morals, nor industry could find encouragement or shelter within the sound of the slave's lash, or of the bootman's chains.

The progress of the national arms and the national sentiment struck down slavery in this District by statute, but left the element of slavery predominant in our local government, still lingering enterprise, withholding education, and sneering at loyalty. It was felt that a solid foundation for liberty and justice had not yet been reached. It was seen that in a republic, all must be citizens on a basis of equality, enjoying like protection and like privileges. To ensure these, the citizen must be endowed with the power to enforce his rights. Yielding to these principles and to the popular demand of the loyal masses, the national legislature wisely placed the ballot in the hands of every citizen; and what has been the result?

The effect is apparent on every side. The city has assumed a new aspect. Improvement is advancing; public and private enterprise have received a new impetus; population has largely increased; the cause of education has advanced more, within the last three years, than it had before in a quarter of a century. The ideas of progress, of self-dependence, and self-government, have taken root and are flourishing among our people. Each feels that he is a part of, and has an interest in, the welfare of the city, the District, and the nation.

But these things do not suit the remnants of the old time. The wheels of progress are moving too fast; they must be blocked. A direct attack upon the privileges of the citizen would stand no chance of success. This popular power must, in some way, be curtailed. The "rabble," so called, must be silenced, or, in plain Anglo-Saxon, the old fogies are opposed to negro suffrage; and if they cannot withdraw it, they seek to diminish, as they destroy, the opportunities for its exercise. Here is the whole secret of the recently inaugurated movement to take away our municipal government.

Here, in the very sight and hearing of a Republican Congress—an organ made historical as the birthplace of emancipation and equal suffrage—it is proposed to erect a government independent of suffrage and derogatory to citizenship. Here, in the stronghold and heart of republican institutions, it is proposed to abolish republicanism, and turn the people over to the tender mercies of a secondary and dependent executive power, in the endowment of which they are to be denied a voice.

Congress is the legitimate, the constitutional legislative power in this District; with that are content. We do not want that power delegated to any man, or number of men, not directly responsible to the people. We prefer the national legislature to any subordinate and irresponsible body. We prefer the national executive to any detailed substitute.

We want no territorial government. It would be a useless and expensive machine, wholly inapplicable to a Territory, every foot of which can be seen from the Dome of the Capitol.

We ask Congress to set its face against all such schemes. We ask that body to retain its Constitutional power over this District, to give its just laws, a perfect and appropriate municipal government, and proper representation on its floor, and leave the people to conduct that government. The territorial form is good as a stepping stone to State organization. But when the territorial form is made permanent, it is both unrepresentative and irresponsible.

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.—A letter from Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, to a friend dated 17th inst., says: "I am now a little better than I have been; am able to sit up, read, and write a little; but I cannot walk or even stand without assistance." He also writes very hopefully about his future and peace in the next world, but is gloomy and despondent about the country.

It is no matter of wonder that Mr. Stephens should feel somewhat despondent over the prospects of the country. The last great effort of his life was spent in a wicked endeavor to destroy the Government. The attempt failed; the Government is stronger than before the attempt upon its life was made; a new era has been ushered in, of which liberty and justice are the crowning glory, and the country has entered upon a career of prosperity and happiness well calculated to excite the most gloomy forebodings in the minds of recreant statesmen and political parasites.

## THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN THE DISTRICT.

In another column will be found a memorial to Congress, recently prepared and distributed by the National Medical Society in answer to a complaint, that the association just mentioned had maliciously and falsely attacked the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

It seems from the statement of facts contained in that paper, that a supposition hazarded by us in our last issue has been verified by the cropping up of the "irrepressible negro" among the disciples of Galen in this city. This untoward event has been serviceable in disabusing the public mind of at least two mischievous fallacies. The first is this: Hitherto the popular belief has been, that any individual who had pursued the necessary studies in a regular medical school, and had obtained from it a diploma conferring upon him all the rights, privileges, and immunities of a doctor in medicine and surgery, was to be regarded, on that very account, as a gentleman. But now it appears that, in reference to this point, the members of the District Society change with Molier's physician, "nons avons sang tout cela." Well, if a duly accredited physician is by no means necessarily a gentleman, it is to be hoped that, while thus correcting the wrong impressions of the community, these reformers may have devised other and less defensible grounds upon which to base their own pretensions to gentility, than those which they so rudely sweep away. At the same time, however, it is to be feared that, by their action, they may have given such a shock to public confidence, as to deter persons from accepting even a certificate of membership in their body as any more valid proof of gentility than the now useless diploma.

Fallacy the second. Heretofore we, in common with everybody else, labored under the delusion that the Medical Society of the District of Columbia was, like all other medical societies that we ever knew of, a scientific association, having for its main object the advancement of its members in professional knowledge and skill. But it appears now, from its own showing, that its meetings are held for another purpose than this, and that they are in fact merely "social reunions."

Such a purpose may be, to its members, far more agreeable than the ordinary one; but, really, it strikes us as having been a waste of legislation on the part of Congress to have incorporated it. As matters now stand, we are left to regret that the Medical Society of Columbia is without a bona fide district society; and we trust that our legislators will supply the want by granting a charter to the National Medical Society, taking good care, however, to see that it be not, like its unworthy predecessor, a sham.

This revelation in regard to the "social reunions" furnishes a satisfactory reason for the rejection of certain applicants, last summer. We can readily conceive that a society, in which "gentlemen who served during the war in the Confederate army" were now prominent in the control of its affairs, might possibly have at times under discussion matters not likely to enlist the sympathies of colored gentlemen who "held positions as surgeons in the Union army during the rebellion." Indeed, an emergency might, perhaps, arise, in which these latter could only be loyal to their "social reunions" by being guilty of treason to their common country.

## MISSISSIPPI'S CHOICE.

Lynch, Stringer, and Spellman have learned their political lessons quickly and well to be able to send a colored native of North Carolina to the Senate, where a certain white native of the same State, now of Tennessee, desires so much to be.

We welcome Hon. Hiram R. Revels, not as a substitute for "Andy," but as a wonderful improvement, in loyalty at least, upon Jefferson Davis.

The paragraphs in the newspapers show a tremendous vigor in looking up little things about one of our ablest men, or else they evince a surprising ignorance, for Mr. Revels has been known to fame for twenty years as an able preacher and orator. The habit of suppressing everything concerning negro ability and virtue in the past may be an excuse for the following paragraph, which we find in the N. A. Tribune:

"Mr. H. R. Revels, the colored Senator elect from Mississippi, is a native of Ohio. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, and was educated for the Methodist ministry. He formerly preached in Indianapolis, and went from that city to Mississippi. He has not heretofore been very prominent in the politics of that State. He is nearly 40 years of age, courteous and gentlemanly in appearance and manner, of a dark brown complexion, and is said by those who know him to possess more than average ability. Mr. Revels has a brother in this city, who is a clerk in the Freedmen's Bureau. The election was a surprise to the Mississippi Republicans who are here, as beyond a local reputation at Natchez, Mr. Revels was but little known in the State. They all recognize him as a creditable representative of his race. The choice made of Senators seems to meet the approval of Republicans."

Such culpable ignorance as this account displays, coming from a friendly journal, is a curious commentary on the interest taken in us in the past, as a people, by our white fellow-citizens.

The facts in regard to the antecedents of the honorable Senator elect are briefly these: Impelled by a praiseworthy desire to obtain an education, which he was debarred from by the oppressive laws of his native State, he removed to Indiana, where his longings were, in part, gratified by attending a seminary under the control of the Friends. Thus equipped for the battle of life, and earnestly desirous of laboring for the good of his fellow-men, he entered the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he speedily acquired distinction by his ability in the pulpit, and his Christian zeal.

But, in this sphere, he felt that his efforts to do good were not to be limited by the mere routine of a preacher's life and duties. At the lecturer's desk, and in the humble school-room, he has striven to disseminate that knowledge which is essential to a people, in order to secure for them the respectful consideration of others. The ecclesiastical arrangements of his church have afforded quite an extended field for his ministrations; and he has labored successfully in the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and, latterly, Mississippi. In fine, he has, for more than twenty years, shown himself a zealous and able co-laborer in the same noble work, in which Bishop Payne, Frederick Douglass, Henry Highland Garnett, Martin R. Delany, and a host of others, have been engaged; and if Mr. Revels, equally well-known to the colored community as the other gentlemen whom we have mentioned, has not to the same extent attracted the notice of his white fellow-citizens, the fact is perhaps to be ascribed to that blindness on the part of the latter, which has prevented them from seeing any merit in a colored man, unless circumstances rather rudely forced him upon their attention. However, Mr. Revels' patriotism, which led him to take part in the organization of two or more colored regiments during the rebellion, and which has since prompted him to do his share in the reconstruction of Mississippi, has eventuated in his election, first, to the City Council of Natchez, then to the State Senate, and now to the Senate of the United States. All who know him rejoice that he has been thus honored, and are perfectly confident that he will, in his high office, satisfy the entire people that the Senatorial robes have been properly bestowed.

## PRINCE ARTHUR.

One feels a little more reconciled to monarchy when a reigning sovereign teaches her children the lessons necessary for a statesman to learn by the advantages of travel, and the teachings even of Republican institutions. Princes are not hot-house plants as of old.

The Prince of Wales has been here, and as a lad we treated him well for his mother's sake. So shall we treat this young gentleman, Prince Arthur. It is the approach to republicanism, under the name of a constitutional monarch, in Great Britain, with a great Queen at its head, or should we not say a great American heart, has endeared that lady to every American heart. We once sat in Cranitch Chapel, at Balmoral, being then the guest of Dr. McLeod, when this young gentleman was present with Prince John, of Glueburgh, Princess Hilder, and other strangers, together with all the members of the royal family, except Prince Leopold, named after the good King of the Belgians—a kinsman of Queen Victoria—and Princess Beatrice, the two youngest children of the Queen.

We listened that day to a loving, manly, fresh, and thoughtful discourse from the editor of *Good Words*, whose royalty bowed before manliness. We were then impressed with the effect of that family influence which was created by a strong, industrious, and manly father, assisted by the self-abnegation and public spirit of a true and faithful mother.

They were in the house of God, and there all were equal—not in the American sense of mere political pretension, but in the English sense of accountability to God and fidelity to one another.

The colored people of the United States desire that the Queen of that land, which gave a resting place to the soles of our weary and bleeding feet, amid the helplessness and hopelessness of oppression, should receive through her son, Prince Arthur, the expressions of our

highest admiration and strongest love for her personal character, as well as our deepest gratitude for all she has done since her ascension to the throne to ameliorate the condition of the poor and oppressed of every land, and in her name to offer this young gentleman a hearty welcome to our shores, that he may carry back the poet's beautiful assertion from the convictions of his own heart that—

"Skins may differ, but affection  
Dwells in white and black the same."

How to GET THE NEW ERA FOR ONE YEAR FREE.—Procure five subscribers and forward us the names, with the money, (\$12.50,) and we will send six copies of the paper for one year, making one extra copy to the getter up of the club.

## AN EARNEST APPEAL.

What do our people hope to gain by acting in public meetings in such a way as to bring discredit on our cause? Nothing is ever gained by preventing discussion, and a great deal, a very great deal, is often lost by even the appearance of acting under the sanction of the law. It was the crushing weight of mob law and gag law that ground the old Democratic party to powder, and they will prove an upper and nether millstone for suffrage in the District if our people yield assent to their use among us.

Let the leading men among our people here in the District call a conference among themselves first, and adopt some plan of action which will result in a thorough canvass of the mass of the people, for the purpose of making known to them the danger to themselves and the injustice perpetrated against them in not keeping their public meetings orderly.

We do not believe as some of our contemporaries assert that Mayor Bowen can be injured by these demonstrations. His claims upon the confidence of the people are too strong, his integrity too unquestioned by honest and impartial men, he has too much administrative ability, and has been too faithful to his trust to be harmed by what others do. But let our people remember that it is a great pain to Mayor Bowen and to all intelligent Republicans to have those acting with them politically contumacious disorder in any way.

## A SUGGESTION.

TO THE OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL FREEDMEN'S SAVINGS AND TRUST COMPANY.

One of the special aims of the New Era is the promotion of the industrial and economic interests of the colored citizen. It is as essential that men be educated in the art of saving money as in the art of earning it, for it is only when industry and economy go hand in hand that they lead to independence.

Believing that your Savings Bank is a valuable agency for the advancement of these interests, we shall press its advantages upon the attention of our readers.

The influence of our journal will, of course, be measured by the circulation it attains. Now, as one means of extending our usefulness, we make the following suggestions to our friends connected with the National Freedmen's Savings Bank:

The total amount of deposits received by the various Branches for the month of December, as shown by the financial statement published in our last issue, was in round numbers about seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Our suggestion is, that each Branch take upon itself to obtain for us, from among the depositors and friends in its locality, at least one subscriber for each thousand dollars of deposits received in December.

This will give us at least seven hundred and fifty additional subscribers. We believe it can be accomplished with a very little effort on the part of our friends, and while it will aid us in the work which we have undertaken in earnest, it will also prove a lasting benefit to those who may subscribe.

Friends, what say you to the suggestion? Which of the twenty-five Branches of the Freedmen's Savings Bank will be the first to respond? Send on your names, and we will give you due credit.

## The Government Printer.

The New York Evening Post is generally too impartial a journal to allow itself to be imposed on, and stick to the mistake. It is therefore hoped that it will recede from its position, or cause its Washington correspondent to acknowledge that he is untenable in regard to the misappropriation of Government funds by Mr. Clapp, the Government Printer. The charges preferred were taken from an anonymous printed slip circulated in the Senate and House. And we are informed that when the Post correspondent was asked for his authority for making the charges he referred to Gen. Negley, and though Gen. Negley refuses to be in any wise responsible for them, they are not contradicted. A moments reflection, or an ounce of information on the subject would have put the case in its proper light. Here are some facts: Since Mr. Clapp took charge of the office, there has been added: 1st, a Specification Printing Department at the Patent office, working 34 hands; 2d, the Treasury Branch office employing 15 hands; 3d, more than ten million of Custom-house blanks have been printed during the last four months, besides several millions of Post-office blanks; work never done before in the office. Let the Post take a little pains in this matter, and it will find that the old pro-slavery spirit, true to itself, will sacrifice the best of white men to rid itself of a negro's presence.

## SUBSCRIBE FOR THE NEW ERA.

We call upon our friends everywhere to subscribe. Do it at once. We have embarked in this enterprise in earnest; we mean to make the New Era a grand success. To this end we shall devote our whole time and all the energies we possess. If our friends come up promptly to our support, and subscribe for our paper, we shall be enabled to produce a journal that will compare favorably with any in the country.

Send on your subscriptions without delay, either singly or in clubs. Ten dollars pays for five copies one year.

Money should be sent in money orders or drafts when practicable. When these cannot be obtained, send in registered letters.

FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.—We call attention to the annual meeting of the National Executive Committee of colored men of the nation, recently held in this city.

It passed resolutions requesting all the colored people of the various States and Territories to prepare for a grand National and State jubilee on the occasion of the ratification and proclamation by the President of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution, and to return thanks to Almighty God and the good people who used as the instruments in bringing about such a glorious event.

George T. Downing, of Rhode Island, is chairman of this committee, F. F. Barbados, of Massachusetts, secretary, and among the members present were Sella Martin, D. C., Prof. G. B. Vashon, D. C., R. B. Barrell and Wm. Nesbitt, Pa., Colling Cruser, D. C., J. M. Langston, Ohio, and others.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

## THE BIBLE QUESTION.

T. the Editor of the New Era:

In your rejoinder to my article, "Which shall educate, the State or the Church?" you say: "We understand our correspondent to say that the Bible in school system, be given up or we must give up our school system, because the Jews, Catholics, and other non-Protestant and non-orthodox bodies will refuse to send their children to public schools where the Bible is read."

I meant that the reader should draw the inference from my article that unless the schools were made truly secular they would eventually cease to exist as public schools. The question will arise, and it must be solved, whether the schools shall be altogether secular, under the control of the State, or religious, under the control of the Church or religious denominations; and the true policy, in my opinion, where there are so many conflicting views entertained in regard to religious tenets, is to allow none of the sects to propagate their dogmas in schools which are intended for all the people. If we take the spirit of our national Constitution and the Declaration of Independence as a guide in this matter, we are not likely to err. If we do not, then we may become involved in a sea of troubles.

The only way to save the schools from disruption is to make them secular, and then place all on an equality under the State. If this is not done, there will come demands for portions of the school fund from different religious sects which cannot, under the circumstances, be justly resisted; and when once commenced to apportion the school fund among religious sects, then you have sown the seed which will produce the downfall of the public school system as an institution of the State.

When the schools are no longer public schools, under the control of the State, but sectarian schools under the control of religious denominations, then the State as a State, has no real interest in the future citizen. The question will, at this stage, assume a different aspect; each of the sects will strive for supremacy, for the possession of a virtually abandoned State government, and it is easy to perceive that during such contentions mental force would not be the only force employed.

In this sense, then, you have understood me properly; that unless you surrender some of your ideals for the public good, the school system, as a public institution, must go down. It does not follow that any one must surrender his religious convictions, but merely forego the propagation of his own peculiar ideas, especially when they are not acceptable to all. If men do not surrender some of their ideas when they combine to form the State, then there could be no State, no society. J. D. G.

WASHINGTON, January 24, 1870.

## THE ASSASSINATION OF M. VICTOR NOIR.

BY GEO. B. VASHON.

Any one who keeps a meteorological record of a tropical region during the rainy season, must expect being called upon to chronicle sudden and violent disturbances in the economy of nature; and the journalist who essays to keep abreast of political movements in France, need not count upon a secure in the performance of his duties.

For some time past the transatlantic telegraph has given us daily its usual alternating intelligence of storm and calm in Paris—now of the threatened resort to barricades on the part of the people, and then of such a skillful disposition of large bodies of troops, say 80,000 or 100,000 men, as tend to insure the public tranquility. But the ordinary treat thus furnished was spiced somewhat more strongly than usual, last week, by the transmission of a rather horrifying piece of news. Pierre Napoleon Bonaparte, a cousin of the Emperor, has killed M. Victor Noir, one of the editors of the *Marseillaise*, under circumstances which give to his deed the aspect of an assassination, cold-blooded in the extreme, if the statement of the only other witness to the transaction is to be credited, and but slightly relieved of that character, even upon Bonaparte's own declaration, that it was committed under the provocation of a blow. This tragic act has worked like a fever-heat in the excitable Parisian blood, and has given to M. Henri Rochefort, the principal editor of the *Marseillaise*, ample opportunity, while denouncing the murder of his co-adjutor, to thunder with greater vehemence against the Napoleonic domination. Later despatches inform us, that this violence has led to the suppression of his paper by the Government, and his condemnation by the criminal tribunal to the payment of a fine of 3,000 francs, and to six months' imprisonment.

In view of this event, it is not hazardous to express the opinion, that it has not strengthened the hold of Napoleon upon the imperial sceptre, or improved his chances of transmitting it to his heir. It is not likely, either, that he will run the risk of his own expulsion from power, by attempting to shield his homicidal cousin from the demands of justice; but rather, that he will, in this ominous crisis of his fate, imitate the example of that elder Brutus, who sacrificed his own sons, when they had incurred the popular displeasure. It is thought that this cousin has always had, by reason of his democratic tendencies, a very slight hold upon the imperial affections; and when Napoleon reflects that, by one rash act and his own, he has thrown upon all who bear the name of Bonaparte, he may reasonably be expected to submit with facile resignation to the cry of "blood for blood." Would such a submission cause his own horoscope, frowning enough just now, to wear a less angry aspect? Time will show.

## THE BLINDNESS OF PREJUDICE.

To the Editor of the New Era:

It seems to me strange that those who dwell upon their wrongs, and who are constant in the vindication of their political rights, should not have their sympathies enlarged towards another disfranchised class, especially when there ought to be feelings of gratitude to deepen sympathy and eradicate prejudice, because of the fact that there had been close and friendly intercourse with some of that class who had already proved their claim to equality of rights. I heard one of the oldest advocates of the woman's suffrage movement refer with pride, at their late convention, to the beginning of her labors in the cause, twenty years ago, when they presented their first petition to the Legislature of the State of New York. How well I remember the pride I felt at the time that petition was presented, and with what feelings of admiration I looked at Mrs. Ernestine L. Rose and Miss Antoinette Brown, who, accompanied by Miss Anthony, addressed that honorable body. I felt proud that, although no white man was found with heart large enough and purse long enough to entertain these noble women, there was a colored man possessing both the heart and the means to entertain them; and there were colored men, whose names are well known among the champions of freedom, who were always ready to escort them from town to town. But how was that pride changed to mortification, when at their convention last year, Miss Anthony fought

against the right of suffrage for colored men, and gave as a reason, with great bitterness, the fact that, at a colored men's convention held in Albany, she had sent her name up, requesting to be made an honorary member, and was refused. I thought, if that could be a reason for opposing the amendment, gratitude for assistance in the days when the woman's suffrage movement was held in contempt, should have been a stronger reason for advocating it, if there was no reason strong enough in the great necessities and pitiable helplessness of the outraged colored man in the South.

Now, one comes to us who demands our respect and honor by telling us that her whole life, since the age of seventeen years, has been spent in seeking to reclaim the fallen: that she has spent her time in this country and abroad, going from prison to prison, from grogshop to dance-hall, seeking to win souls from among the degraded ones to be found there.

And as I looked upon her, clothed in the beautifully simple garb of the Quaker women, here, I said, is a peer of Prudence Crandall, she who nearly forty years ago, in the eagerness of her youth, was doing all she could to elevate the oppressed, and suffered imprisonment for teaching fourteen little colored girls to read. One of those little girls has just passed to her heavenly home; having spent a life of usefulness, she has gone to join her tender.

During our late war, she